



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for October 5, 2009

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INVESTING IN A HIGH-TECH ECONOMY: With *Forbes Magazine* declaring Columbus “the number one up-and-coming tech city” in the country last year, City Council is prepared to expand its investment in broadband infrastructure, which will promote future growth in the local economy. Councilmember [A. Troy Miller](#), chair of the Administration Committee, is sponsoring two ordinances that will enable the city to begin acquiring a more robust fiber optic network and position Columbus as ostensibly the only large city in the nation to own a fiber optic network for economic development purposes. *Ordinance 1296-2009* authorizes the Department of Technology to enter into a contract to begin purchasing fiber and underground conduit from Columbus Fibernet, LLC. The conduit and fiber ultimately will provide a loop around the city, allowing access points for fiber-optic backhaul to future wireless networks or fiber-to-the-premise networks. *Ordinance 1297-2009* authorizes a contract to acquire the rights and interests in fiber-optic conduit in the downtown business district, which will be used as an economic development incentive to bring high-tech companies to Columbus by providing an existing “telecommunications pathway,” allowing prospective businesses to avoid the costs associated with constructing their own conduits.

GINTHER CONTINUES FUNDING COMMUNITY CRIME PATROL: The City of Columbus continues to combat crime through its partnership with the Community Crime Patrol. The program enables citizen patrollers to assist Columbus Police Officers in the control and prevention of crime in area neighborhoods. Ordinance #1216-2009 sponsored by Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) authorizes the expenditure of \$50,000 from Public Safety’s General Government Grant Fund to continue funding the program. Thirty-seven citizen patrollers have become Columbus Police Officers as a result of their participation in the Community Crime Control program.

PALEY SUPPORTING FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES LEVY: Councilmember [Eileen Y. Paley](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0152X-2009* to endorse Issue 4, the 10-year, 3.1 mill replacement levy for Franklin County Children Services (FCCS). The replacement levy will actually represent a **reduction** in the property tax collected for children services, as efficiency measures will enable the agency to continue to provide high quality services to families and children through 2014. Franklin County Children Services helps more than 28,000 abused and neglected children in Central Ohio each year.

IMPROVING PARK SPACE: The Woodward Park Nature Preserve along Karl Road is a 33-acre site filled with a variety of trees, flowers and wildlife. *Ordinance 1206-2009*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), will allow the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into a contract with the lowest and best bidder, Builderscape, Inc., for the construction of a new 1300 foot walking path with a 90 foot boardwalk to protect environmentally sensitive areas of the trail. The City is using \$28,476 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and \$9,493.00 from the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund to pay for the project.

OPERATION SAFEWALKS: Safe sidewalks that promote walkability and encourage a healthy lifestyle are important for neighborhoods throughout Columbus. With the help of area residents, the City of Columbus has identified sections on the South side that are in need of sidewalks. Public Service & Transportation Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0688-2009* to construct sidewalks and ADA-compliant ramps along South High Street, from the State Route 104 eastbound ramp to Obetz Road. The sidewalk portion of this project will remove existing barriers for residents, particularly for those who live nearby at four senior housing facilities, by providing pedestrian access to transit. A number of destinations are located near this latest project, including the Great Southern Shopping Center, Columbus Health Department, and the South Community Opportunity Center. COTA also maintains 27 bus stops and transit routes within the project area. The \$415,614.62 cost of the project will be funded with bond sale proceeds and the Federal State Highway Engineering Fund.

KEEPING CITY VEHICLES OPERATING EFFICIENTLY: President [Michael C. Mentel](#), chair of the Finance Committee, is sponsoring legislation that will ensure the city's award winning Fleet Management Division has the parts and supplies they need to keep a variety of city-owned vehicles in the best possible working condition. *Ordinance 1158-2009* will authorize the transfer of unencumbered balances from the Services and Capital fund to the Materials and Supplies fund within the Fleet Management Division. The ordinance also authorizes the expenditure of \$260,820.00 from the Fleet Management fund, ensuring that an uninterrupted supply of automotive parts, supplies, and services are available to repair the city's fleet.

*****Councilmember Craig and Public Service Director Mark Kelsey also will detail Columbus' agreement with SWACO to operate free yard waste drop off sites around the city this fall.*****